

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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### Periodicals

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### Find us on Facebook!



Search for our page "St. John's Lutheran Church, Mendota, IL" and join us.

### Save The Date...

Plans are underway for the **Annual Spaghetti Supper on Sunday, December 8th**. The Mendota High School Madrigal Singers will perform in the Sanctuary following the supper. More information will be shared as the date approaches.



## November Birthdays, Anniversaries & Upcoming Events

God's continued blessings to all of those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries!

### 75th+ Birthday



- Nov. 4 June Pollex
- Nov. 6 Charles Betz
- Nov. 12 Marilyn Schaller
- Nov. 13 Connie Pohl
- Nov. 15 Ruth Wedemeyer
- Nov. 17 Toni Piller
- Nov. 24 Judy Stewart
- Nov. 27 Barb Zinke
- Nov. 27 Donna Hasse
- Nov. 29 Betty Dufour

*Congratulations*

### Happy Milestone Wedding Anniversary!

Bradley & Kora Jones  
November 27th — 20 years

### November

- 3 Stewardship Sunday — please return your Intent Cards
- 3 Sunday School children sing during gam worship
- 5 Polling Place — All Day in Fellowship Hall
- 6 Prayer group in Chapel gam
- 7 Sarah Circle 1pm
- 7 All Teams meeting 7pm
- 9 Trivia Night 6pm (pizza at 5:30pm)
- 11 Rebecca Circle at Marlene Simonton's home
- 11 Congregational book read 6:30pm
- 11 Poinsettia orders due today
- 13 Prayer group in Chapel gam
- 13 Evening Confirmation Class 6pm
- 14 Allure 10am
- 17 "Who Are Lutheran Christians?" potluck 5:30pm
- 20 Prayer group in Chapel gam
- 20 Stonecroft worship 10am
- 21 Executive Team 5:45pm / Church Council 6:30pm
- 24 Confirmation class leads gam worship
- 26 Quilting gam
- 27 Prayer group in Chapel gam
- 28 OFFICE CLOSED — Thanksgiving Day

St. John's Lutheran Church



# ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

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### Special items of interest:

**Worship in our Sanctuary continues each Sunday morning at gam.** If you are unable to attend, you can join us for virtual worship on our YouTube page. (Go to YouTube.com and search for STJ LUTHERAN MENDOTA.)

**If you would like Pastor Elise to visit when you are hospitalized,** please contact the church office. Because of privacy laws, the hospital will not contact us.

St. John's offers **Electronic Giving.** If you are interested please contact Susan in the office. You can also **give online** through the link on our website.

The **Wednesday prayer group** meets from gam to approximately 9:30am every Wednesday to lift up prayers on behalf of the St. John's community. You can pray aloud or silently, come frequently, or on occasion. All are welcome!



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Dear friends in Christ,

As I write this, we are a week away from Election Day. There are many who are stressed and anxious now about what may happen. I expect there will be those who are stressed and anxious in the days following election results. There will be people who will see themselves as victorious winners, and those who feel like losers. People you know may be arrogant or angry or depressed. How will you respond? What do you anticipate for yourself following the election? How do you handle stress and anxiety? Do you hide it and let it eat away at you? Do you find yourself lashing out at others? Do you take to social media and vent?

Over the last few weeks we have heard stories of generosity and how some of our disciples at St. John's are inspired to be generous. I now encourage you – this month to **be generous - with yourself and with others.** That is, pay attention to yourself, when you need to be with people or away from people or away from news or social media. Acknowledge your own emotions.

And then, be generous with others. Don't assume you know what someone else is feeling. You may want to keep Martin Luther's explanation to the commandment "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" close by. "We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light." If you are prone to being judgmental or angry with others, post that explanation on a mirror, your refrigerator, or commit it to memory. And don't assume that someone's offense against you is politically motivated; they may be grieving a loved one, facing illness, in pain, or struggling with another personal relationship.

Here are some other ideas for managing yourself if you're struggling.

Take everything to the Lord in prayer. Pray for yourself. Pray for your neighbor. Pray for our country. Be *with* your God and trust God's presence to bring you wisdom, strength, peace, calm spirit, and gracious tongue in your interactions with others.

Calm your body, which helps calm your mind. Take two minutes to pay attention to your breath. Set a timer and breathe in and out. (You can also find apps to help you to focus and breathe in the best way.)

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Practice gratitude. Give thanks to God in prayer by writing or speaking aloud. Consider a daily gratitude practice of writing a prayer of gratitude and putting it in a jar, or use your calendar and write down something you are thankful for every day. Send thank you notes to let people know you appreciate them.

Finally, if you are struggling in any way, know that I am available to talk with you and pray with you. If you and others would like to gather for prayer with or without me, the chapel is available. The peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

~Pastor Elise

### Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the October 17, 2024 meeting of our Church Council:

- Council discussed the next chapter on *Growing Young*, and how we might better understand and have empathy for young people, whose lives are different than ours were at that age.
- The finance team report shows that St. John's is in a healthy place at this time of year.
- Updates on the fellowship hall floor and stewardship were given.
- Council spent time talking about future goals for ministry in 2025.

#### Finance Report Year To Date thru September 2024:

Budgeted Income \$245,638 Actual Income \$255,813  
Budgeted Expense \$253,228 Actual Expense \$254,465

We are grateful for your continued financial support, through your offerings in person, through the mail, and through electronic giving. We are blessed to have such a faithful St. John's family.

### Lighting of the Courtyard Christmas Tree



December 1st is the First Sunday in Advent. Following recent tradition, we will have a lighting of the Courtyard Christmas Tree that day. All ages are invited for an interactive devotion with cookies and cocoa at 4:30pm, followed by tree lighting at 5pm. This will be a family-friendly event and open to your friends and neighbors.

### St. Johns: A Culture of Generosity Stewardship News

God has called forth the people of St. John's to be the body of Christ in the world. We are commissioned to love our neighbors and care for one another. One of the ways we do this is through financial support of our ministry. On Sunday, November 3rd, we will gather in our intent cards, which is one way you are generous for Christ's ministry. Intent cards have been mailed to each household. Please prayerfully consider what you intend to give for our ministry this next year and bring your intent card to worship. You may also mail your intent card or use the QR code to submit your intent online. The stewardship team has set a goal to receive intents from 65 households. And an anonymous donor is willing to provide a gift of \$5,000 when we meet our goal! You can help us receive this gift by returning your intent.



On Sunday, November 10th, we will celebrate all that we have done and will do through our generous ministry. Please join us for this celebration!

### All Saints Sunday — November 3rd



Scripture speaks of grief and its heavy toll on those who have suffered loss. More frequently, however, in the New Testament we read about the "joy that comes in the morning." That Joy comes when we lift our faith to remember the Resurrection and the Victory won by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. During worship on November 3rd, we will remember in thanksgiving the saints who have gone before us, those who this past year have joined the Church Triumphant. We remember:

*Betty Croisant, Stephen Dufour, Melanie Schroeder, and Thomas Truckenbrod.*

#### Who are Lutheran Christians? Sunday, November 17th, 5:30pm

Pastor Elise will be hosting a discussion for those who are new to or newly reacquainted with St. John's. Anyone who is curious about what it means to be a Lutheran Christian and/or intends to join St. John's as a member are invited. We will share a potluck meal in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 5:30pm, then conversation from 6pm until about 7:30pm. Those wishing to become a member of St. John's will be received as new members in worship on December 1st.

**POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE:**  
Monday, November 11th

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to help decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas, please contact the church office at (815) 539-5626.

Order forms are also available in the Sunday bulletin.

ST. JOHN'S TASK FORCE PRESENTS:  
**Trivia Night**

Sign up form available in weekly bulletin or call the church office (815) 539-5626

Sign up deadline: November 4th

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH**

5:30PM - PIZZA  
6PM - TRIVIA COMPETITION  
(in St. John's Fellowship Hall)

**FALL BACK**  
*Daylight Savings Time Ends*

**Daylight Savings Time comes to an end on Sunday, November 3rd.**

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 2nd, or you'll be really early for church on Sunday!